

The Village Voice



Volume 17, Number 7 Indian Springs Village, Alabama October 9, 2007

INDIAN SPRINGS VILLAGE TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS

Tuesday, October 16, 2007, 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, November 6, 2007, 7:00 p.m.

Agenda

- I. Mayor/Council/Committee Reports
- II. Ordinances and Resolutions
- III. Citizen's Forum

Indian Springs Village Telephone Directory
Number is 982-1755

For Town Hall Reservations please call Patricia
Crapet Voice Mail 802-2753

or E-Mail: ISVillage@aol.com

Website: www.indianspringsvillage.org

Editor's Notes

The Village Voice is the official organ of Indian Springs Village, AL, established October 16, 1990. The mission of this newsletter is to foster a spirit of community and co-operation. It is the vehicle for reporting the monthly deliberations of the mayor and council in town council meetings; additionally it provides these officials and other Villagers a means of communicating – it is a “voice.” Expenses are covered by the efforts and donations of ISV volunteers. Deliveries are made at no charge by volunteer couriers.

Address letters to the editor and news items to:
Alison Stigers, Editor, 5110 Split Rail Trail,
Birmingham, Alabama, 35244 (981-1750),
Fax: 980-0408, or e-mail: villagevoice@indianspringsvillage.org.

The Village Voice is published the second Tuesday of each month. Articles for publication in the November edition should be submitted by Friday, October 26, 2007. All materials submitted for publication may be edited, including **letters to the editor, which must be signed and give writer's address and phone number.** All opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the authors of articles; any opinions expressed should not be attributed to the mayor or the council.

Editor's Appreciation to

Indian Springs Village couriers for hand delivery
Mildred Wyatt for the masthead drawing
Herb Robins for proofing

Message from the Mayor

by Steve Zerkis

We Need Your Input

Your Town Council needs your thoughts and suggestions on how to better use the town's grounds. We have approximately four acres. The front half includes the town hall and the pavilion. The rear is an open field that has an old walking track. That field is used for the annual Easter Egg Hunt and 4th of July parking.

A suggestion has been made that we pave the walking track to make it useful to our residents. What are your thoughts on that? Would you like to see a paved walking track? Would you and your family make use of it? Would this be a practical use of our town's funds? We estimate a cost of approximately \$10,000 for track improvements.

Are there other improvements you would suggest for our grounds? We don't want to change the peaceful character of our Town Hall area but we will be glad to look at improvements that would make it more useful to our residents. We would like to know what you think. Please email me at steve@indianspringsvillage.org or send a note c/o the ISV Town Hall, 2635 Cahaba Valley Road, Indian Springs Village, AL 35124. We will publish the results of this survey.

Don't forget our Annual Founders' Day Celebration on Sunday, October 21 at 2:00 p.m. at the Town Hall. We will have some antique farm tractors and equipment, antique cars and trucks, art and crafts displays and food vendors. So come out and bring your children for some fun. Those tractors will be older than our town and even older than some of the town's founders, (and that includes the mayor) so come out and enjoy.

INDIAN SPRINGS VILLAGE

17th Annual

FOUNDERS' DAY CELEBRATION

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2007

2:00 P.M. | ISV TOWN HALL

Town Council Meeting

August 21, 2007

The Indian Springs Village Town Council met at 7:00 p.m. at the Town Hall.

The Town Clerk called the roll and noted the presence of Mayor Steve Zerkis, Council Members Herb Robins, Jack Mendel, Brenda Bell-Guercio and Brian Stauss. Also present were Administrative Assistant Bart Trammell and Planning and Zoning Chair Wayne Jones. Council Member Stewart Dudley did not attend the meeting.

The Town Council minutes of August 7 were reviewed and approved on a motion by Mendel and seconded by Robins. The motion was approved unanimously.

Mendel made a motion to rescind the retroactive increase in stipend for the Town Clerk approved by the council on August 7. The motion was seconded by Stauss.

Mendel made a motion to waive the rules, seconded by Stauss. Mendel made a motion to increase the Town Clerk's monthly stipend to \$550 effective September 1, 2007. The motion was seconded by Stauss.

Robins reported on the status of the new road signs for several streets off of Caldwell Mill Road. There has been a slight delay. Adkins Signs sent the signs to another company to be engraved and they were engraved incorrectly. They will not be installed the week of August 22.

Lynn Hendricks of the ISV Garden Club contacted Robins to inquire if the garden club could contract with Mr. Trussell, who cuts grass for the town, for extra work and heavy digging. The council agreed. There was discussion about the billing process for the garden club and Mr. Trussell.

Robins reported that he had been contacted by Paul Stephens who had previously offered to find and fill potholes in the town on a contractual basis. Stephens said there were several potholes on two streets. Cost to fill would be \$25 to \$30 each. Stephens wanted to know how to handle the purchase of materials. After some discussion, it was decided that Stephens would purchase the materials and submit receipts for reimbursement.

Mayor Zerkis asked if Stephens would be interested in trimming trees in residential areas in the town. Robins will contact him to inquire. Mendel suggested first contacting the property owners to perform tree trimming. The Mayor will contact them.

Mendel presented the July financials, noting that the beginning balances have been revised to match the ending balances from the recent audit.

He further reported that he plans to discuss additional accounting responsibilities for the town bookkeeper, Hollie Johnson, at their next meeting. He will also discuss a flat monthly rate as opposed to her current hourly rate. After meeting with her, he will present his recommendations to the council.

Mendel, with significant contributions from Trammell, has drafted a revision to the financial procedures to be reviewed at a future meeting.

Stauss reported on the status of locating a student or students to update and maintain the website. He has left a phone message at Oak Mountain High School and is awaiting a reply.

Mayor Zerkis reported that he has contacted other cities to see what wrecker service they use for the removal of junk vehicles. The town attorney has sent a third letter to affected residents. In summary, the letter states that if the junk vehicles are not removed by August 31st, they will be towed and removed.

Trammell reported that today he attended an AL-DOT presentation at Oak Mountain Presbyterian Church regarding a four lane project of AL 119. The proposed project, consisting of four lanes with a raised median, would start immediately south of Oak Mountain Elementary School and end approximately 1000 feet south of the Lake Purdy bridge. The original proposal called for the project to begin farther north at Broken Bow South.

Stauss motioned to endorse the July financial statements. The motion was seconded by Bell-Guercio.

Mayor Zerkis reported that Alison Stigers, editor of *The Village Voice*, needs articles for the September edition by August 31st.

The Mayor called resident Mr. Strozier to the floor. For the upcoming Founders' Day event in October, Mr. Strozier is proposing adding a tractor ride or parade. He has a vintage tractor and noted several other neighbors own tractors as well as Model As or Ts and other vintage vehicles and equipment. He suggested meeting at Town Hall and having them on display for the Founders' Day event. Strozier presented vintage tractor pictures and event notices from other towns. The Mayor approved. Robins suggested having them on display in lieu of a parade. There was discussion about the date and time and it was decided tentatively to hold the event on Sunday, October 21st at 2:00p.m. There was also discussion about obtaining food and beverage vendors. There was further discussion about antique farm equipment. Stauss will prepare and send an article to Stigers for publication in the next issue of *The Village Voice*. Mr. Strozier offered to be the contact for the vintage tractor and equipment display. The Town Clerk will contact the Columbiana Town Clerk and inquire about the food vendors used at Liberty Day. Stauss said that he would contact the Southern Antique Iron Association and invite them to display their tractors.

The Mayor opened the floor for public comment. Attending the meeting were five scouts from Troop 71 to obtain their Citizenship in the Community merit badge. The young men in attendance were: Star Scout Kevin Wozniak, Tender Foot John Barth, First Class Jorge

Marin, Second Class Justin Stoessel and First Class Steven Dinan.

Mayor Zerkis adjourned the meeting at 8:00 p.m, but briefly reconvened. The Town Clerk presented a bid for cleaning the Town Hall from Jennifer Brasher. The council reviewed and accepted Ms. Brasher's bid.

There was additional discussion about adding arts and crafts vendors to the Founders' Day event. The Town Clerk offered to assume this responsibility.

Respectfully submitted,
Kelly Rasco, Town Clerk

Town Council Meeting

September 4, 2007

The Indian Springs Village Town Council met at 7:00 p.m. at the Town Hall.

The Town Clerk called the roll and noted the presence of Council Members Mayor Steve Zerkis, Herb Robins, Jack Mendel, Brenda Bell-Guercio and Brian Stauss. Also present were Administrative Assistant Bart Trammell and Planning and Zoning Chair Wayne Jones. Council Member Stewart Dudley did not attend the meeting.

Jones reported that activity continues on Stagg Run. The developers will submit a final plat map soon for approval.

Robins reported that he spoke with Whiten Signs today. The installation of the new road signs will be Thursday and Friday.

Trammell reported that Don Castleberry called and said the Castleberry Road sign is missing and the brackets are bent.

Robins spoke with Scott Holladay regarding the damaged road signs discussed at a previous meeting. Also, Jim Wyatt contacted Robins to report a sinkhole forming on Indian Trail. Holladay said these items would be worked on.

Mayor Zerkis requested a welcome sign on Valleydale Road in the Homestead vicinity. Robins responded that there isn't room on the easement since the turn lanes were added on Valleydale Road. There was further discussion about another possible location.

Mendel reported that financial procedures have been revised as a result of the recent audit. The draft will be reviewed later in the meeting.

Mendel has scheduled a meeting with Town Bookkeeper Hollie Johnson on the 21st. In addition to her monthly posting of accounts, Mendel plans for her to assume all end of fiscal year operational accounting activities that he has previously been performing.

Stauss met with the webmaster and graphic design instructor at Oak Mountain High School. The instructor

is excited and interested in the website project. He plans to divide his class into three teams and each will develop a prototype. The prototypes should tentatively be completed in October.

Jones discussed the property adjacent to Ed's Amish Sheds. There is a previous judgment limiting how the property can be used. The property is not zoned for a car lot, but recently several cars have been parked there for sale. Jones suggested the city attorney send a letter to the property owner. The Mayor will contact Russ Allison to discuss.

Mayor Zerkis gave an update on the activity with the property owners affected by the junk car ordinance. Andrews has had all cars registered and insured. A mechanic has also been working to get the cars operational so that they can be removed from the property. There has been no response from the other two property owners. There was discussion about procedures going forward.

Mendel presented the draft of the revised financial procedures for review by the Council. The revisions address issues raised by the recently concluded audit. The revisions have been made by adding new sections to the financial procedures document addressing the following subjects: 1.) capital asset management procedures, 2.) collections of cash contributions at civic events, 3.) approval and issue of checks for purchases for civic events, and 4.) investment policy.

Mendel will update the draft document to reflect the Council's consensus and present the document to the Council for approval at a later meeting.

Mayor Zerkis presented a draft budget for fiscal year 2008. The revenue in the general fund is budgeted at \$221,000 and expenses are budgeted at \$134,000.

Mayor Zerkis was recently contacted by Chief O'Connor of the North Shelby Fire District. The district is interested in buying a new fire truck and is researching loan rates. A low rate can be obtained through the Alabama League of Municipalities, but the fire district cannot join. There was discussion about assisting the fire district in obtaining a loan.

The Shelby County Sheriff has been invited to be present at the next council meeting.

Trammell reported that the business license ordinance needs to be updated in accordance with the new law. There was discussion about changing flat rates for large businesses to gross receipts.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Kelly Rasco, Town Clerk



Computer Classes offered at the North Shelby Library

by Michelyn Reid, North Shelby Library Reference Librarian

Computer Classes offered at the North Shelby Library. All Classes are FREE and are on: Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 8:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. Limited seating. Registration required. Please contact Michelyn at 439-5510 or nsref@shelbycounty-al.org to register.

October

Oct. 3 - Internet for Beginners
Oct. 9 - Intro to Word I
Oct. 10 - Intro to Word II
Oct. 16 - Intro to Excel I
Oct. 17 - Intro to Excel II
Oct. 23 - Intro to PowerPoint
Oct. 24 - Internet for Beginners
Oct. 30 - Intro to Word I
Oct. 31 - Intro to Word II

November

Nov. 6 - Intro to Excel I
Nov. 7 - Intro to Excel II
Nov. 13 - Intro to Word I
Nov. 14 - Intro to Word II

December

Dec. 4 - Intro to Excel I
Dec. 5 - Intro to Excel II
Dec. 11 - Intro to Word I
Dec. 12 - Intro to Word II



Building Permits

submitted by Frazier Christy, Town Engineer

Applicant: Sean Roberts
Owner: Sean Roberts
Address: 5115 Split Rail Trail
Proposed Use: Deck rebuild

Applicant: Joey Stamba
Owner: Graig White
Address: 869 Jasmine Hill Road
Proposed Use: New residence

Applicant: Scott's Services
Owner: Robert James Cerfolio
Address: 260 Cahaba Oaks Trail
Proposed Use: Electrical work

Correction

by Steve Zerkis, Mayor

In the July 10 issue of *The Village Voice* there was an unintentional error in an article entitled "ISV Garden Club News." It stated that Dr. Ruth Goodwyn was the first editor of *The Village Voice*. Ruth did a wonderful and professional job as editor, but she was preceded in that post by LaVerne Ramsey, followed our former First Lady, Olivia Weingarten. Ruth has been succeeded, in turn, by Alison Stigers. All four of these individuals have worked very hard to provide you with an outstanding and comprehensive monthly snapshot of life in Indian Springs Village. If you want to have a good feel of how our town developed and progressed, just go on line at our website, www.indianspringsvillage.org. You can find all previous issues of *The Village Voice* dating back to the first one published in April, 1991.

Ms. Senior South Shelby Pageant

submitted by Shelli Thomason,
Shelby County Community Services Coordinator

The Ms. Senior South Shelby Pageant is sponsored by South Shelby Chamber of Commerce and the Town of Westover.

Date: Saturday, October 20, 2007

Place: New Life Assembly

Location: 11580 Highway 280 – Westover

Time: 2 p.m. – Reception to follow

Ladies sixty years of age and up, residing in the South Shelby County area, are encouraged to register by contacting the South Shelby Chamber of Commerce, P.O. Box 396, Columbiana, AL 35051. Phone: 205-669-9075; fax: 205-669-1842 or visit www.southshelbychamber.com.

Please submit entry forms by September 28, 2007. Request an entry form from the Chamber or print a copy from the South Shelby Chamber's website. This pageant is preliminary for Ms. Senior Alabama Pageant.

Heardmont Happenings!

Heardmont Senior Center welcomes you.

Mondays – Tai Chi with Charlie Fechter at 9:30 a.m. – free of charge.

Dance – Every 2nd and 4th Friday of the month – 7:00 p.m.
October 11th - Style show presented by Sylvia Gordo from Coldwater Creek at 12:00 p.m.

October 30th - Boxed picnic lunch at Lonesome Dove. Transportation provided – call to reserve your seat at 991-2015. Heardmont Senior Center is located at 5452 Cahaba Valley Road.

October Happenings

by Tess Bouvier, North Shelby Library Children's Librarian

Special Programming

Monday, Oct. 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd and 29th – 4-5:00 p.m.: “Sit, Stay, Read!” A non-profit organization through Hand-in-Paw dedicated to providing volunteer services to children. “Sit, Stay, Read!” brings children together with specially trained dogs to help them gain more confidence in their reading abilities in an individual setting at the North Shelby library that is supportive, relaxed and furry! All ages. Registration required. Call or email Tess at 439-5504 or nsyouth@shelbycounty-al.org for more information.

Tuesday, Oct. 23rd – 4:00 p.m.: “Craft: Dream Catcher Name Frame.” Create your own special dream catcher to adorn your bedroom. All ages. Registration required. Call or email the Children's Department at 439-5504 or nsyouth@shelbycounty-al.org for more information.

Saturday, Oct. 27th – 1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.: “Family Movie Day: *Max and Ruby's Halloween.*” In episode one, Max wants to be a vampire for Halloween, but Ruby needs a little prince to match her Cinderella costume. In the second episode, Max wants Ruby to read him the tale of “The Blue Tarantula”.... Will the scary story keep her brother up all night? Snacks served.

Tuesday, Oct. 30th – 4:00-4:45 p.m. “The Children's Educational Theater Presents: *Winona the Witch and her Flying Machine!*” Little Winona doesn't want to ride on her old rickety broom on Halloween night, she wants to ride in style! Unfortunately, Winona's idea doesn't go exactly as planned and she finds herself in quite a predicament! For more information, call or email the Children's Department at 439-5504 or nsyouth@shelbycounty-al.org.

Story-Time Programming

Toddler Tales

Monday, Oct. 1st, 8th, 15th and 22nd – 10:30 & 11:30 a.m.: You can call the library at 439-5504 to sign up. You may begin registration the last Tuesday of the month for the following month of programs. Ages 24-36 months. Registration required. Call the Children's Department at 439-5504 to sign up.

Mr. Mac (Storyteller Extraordinaire!)

Wednesdays, Oct 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th and 31st at 10:45 a.m.. All ages. No registration required.

P. J. Story Time

Thursdays, Oct. 4th, 11th, 18th and 25th at 7:00 p.m. All ages.

Teen Scene

Teen Advisory Group – Monday, October 15th at 6:00 p.m. Are you looking for community service hours for school? Do you like to read? Are you interested in helping North

Shelby Library pick books? If you answered yes to any of these questions, then Teen Advisory is for you! Enjoy pizza and drinks while helping us make important decisions for the Teen Department. Call or email Katie for more information at 439-5504 or nsyouth@shelbycounty-al.org. You can also check out our Myspace page at www.myspace.com/northshelbyteens for information on upcoming events!



After Hours/After Dark True Ghost Stories – Wednesday, October 24th – 6:30-8:00 p.m.

You're never too old for ghost stories, especially true tales of hauntings. Join us after hours for a candlelight tour of the library and listen to spooky tales from local storyteller Kristy Hearn. Roam the library halls as you learn about our ghostly history. Enjoy pizza, drinks and door prizes. Space is limited so call or email the Teen Department for more information or to RSVP at 439-5504 or nsyouth@shelbycounty-al.org.

Teen Book Pick of the Month – *The Off Season* by Catherine Murdock

In the sequel to Murdock's best-selling *Dairy Queen*, readers find D.J. starting her junior year of high school in a pretty good place. Finally, she is an accepted part of the football team and things between would-be-boyfriend (?) Brian Nelson seem to be looking up. Unfortunately, tension at school and financial problems at home put an end to her short-lived happiness. As usual, D.J.'s trials and tribulations are humorous, poignant and always entertaining, and readers will be as drawn to this book as they were to its predecessor.

The Month of October – Online Book Club

Want to find another teen book to read? Join our Online Book Club and receive portions of a teen book each week through your email! Sign up on our website to get started!



Suspicious Activity Near School Bus Stops

The Shelby County Sheriff's Office is investigating multiple reports of a suspicious person in and around school bus stops in North Shelby County.

The incident was reported to have occurred on September 12th at approximately 3:15 pm in the Meadowbrook area. A white male with brown hair, showing some gray, believed to be in his fifties or sixties and driving a black Mercedes, attempted to speak with two children at a bus stop. The adult male's speech was somewhat mumbled and the children were not certain of what was said. This action was witnessed by at least two adults in addition to the two children.

"There are many rumors currently associated with this incident that indicate it occurred at a number of different North Shelby County subdivisions. At this time, we can only substantiate this one incident in Meadowbrook. We ask that you talk with your children about safety procedures and please refer to our website news releases for accurate information," states Sheriff Chris Curry.

The Sheriff's Office is asking that anyone with information about a similar vehicle or person please contact the Criminal Investigations Division at (205) 669-4181 or the "Report Criminal Activity" tip line at www.shelbyso.com. *(Reprinted from Shelby County Sheriff's website.)*

Cleaning up Bacteria in Bishop Creek

by Samantha Hurst, Staff Writer, Shelby County Reporter

Samples taken by Shelby County Environmental Management last week showed no harmful levels of bacteria in Bishop Creek despite tests earlier in the summer that showed high levels of coliform.

Chad Scroggins, county environmental supervisor, said this test doesn't mean citizens shouldn't be vigilant when it comes to keeping the creek clean.

"What we are going to do is to keep sampling to watch for additional problems," Scroggins said. "We're going to keep our eye on this one. Whatever caused the original high counts could have been a one-time thing but this good sampling could also be a one-time thing."

Back in March, a group of concerned citizens decided to begin watching for potential pollutants in Bishop Creek. Soon after, a volunteer noticed the creek looked discolored and had an odd odor.

Mayor Steve Zerkis said tests done by the Alabama Department of Environmental Management in May showed coliform bacteria levels to be at 3,000 colonies per 100 milliliters of water - normal limits average between 50-150 colonies. Though high, the level was not harmful to animals or humans, environmental management officials said. Levels from last week's sampling were below 50.

One landowner along the creek was notified that their animals may have been a cause of the pollution and was asked to put up fencing to prevent animals from defecating near the creek and to use hay bales as erosion control.

The Ultimate Potato Gratin Recipe

courtesy Tyler Florence, www.foodnetwork.com

1 head savoy cabbage, cored, cleaned, and shredded
1 (2-inch) piece slab bacon, thinly sliced
2 tablespoons unsalted butter
4 garlic cloves, finely chopped
Sea salt and freshly ground black pepper
1/2 bunch fresh chives, finely chopped to 1/4 cup
2 pounds baking potatoes, unpeeled and thinly sliced (about 1/8-inch), see Cook's note*
2 1/2 cups heavy cream
2 cups grated Parmesan

Preheat the oven to 375 degrees F. Finely shred the cabbage. Cut the bacon into 1/2-inch chunks. Place a small skillet over medium-low heat and fry the bacon, until crisp. Remove from pan with a slotted spoon and drain on paper towels. Set aside.

Add 1 tablespoon butter to bacon fat in frying pan. When it has melted add 1/2 the garlic and give it a quick stir with a wooden spoon to soften. Add the cabbage and coat it with the

butter. Slowly let it wilt. Add the bacon. Season with salt and freshly ground black pepper. Remove from heat and add most of the chives, reserving a little for the garnish.

Generously butter the bottom and sides of a 9 by 13-inch ovenproof casserole dish. In a large bowl, combine the potatoes, 1 1/2 cups of cream, 1 cup of Parmesan, and the remaining garlic. Season with salt and freshly ground black pepper. Using your hands, place a layer of potatoes in the casserole dish. Sprinkle with Parmesan and repeat with 2 more layers. Spoon the cabbage mixture on top and spread it out evenly over the potatoes. Top it off with 2 more layers of potato and Parmesan. Pour the remaining 1 cup cream over the dish. Sprinkle with the remaining Parmesan.

Cover dish with aluminum foil. Bake for 1 hour. Remove foil and bake for 30 minutes until golden brown. Leave for 10 minutes before serving. Garnish with fresh chives.

*Cook's Note: Slice the potatoes immediately before using so they don't turn brown.

The Early History of Indian Springs Village

By Ruth Goodwyn, Ph.D., Village Historian

The idea of incorporating Indian Springs had been suggested from time to time with no action taken on these various occasions. But events happened causing alarm among many residents that our pristine valley would soon become commercialized if preventive measures were not taken. In 1981 the stretch of I-65 between Hoover and Alabaster opened at last! Soon afterwards Neil's Pharmacy, which had been opened in 1979, was the target of an attempted burglary in broad daylight. In short, it was becoming obvious that instead of country coming to town, town was coming to country.

In 1985, the new mayor of Pelham, Bobby Hayes, wrote to Indian Springs residents through the Indian Springs Civic Club, inviting them to annex into Pelham—this after Quail Run and Valley Station had been developed and elected to become part of Hoover. A meeting of the Civic Club was called by outgoing president Holt Cloud on the grounds of Indian Springs School. Mayor Hayes spoke first, very forthrightly on Pelham's desire to annex Indian Springs, pointing out that the city of Pelham had no other direction for future growth. Then Mayor Frank Skinner of Hoover, relatively new to his office, led a question and answer session. Hoover's mayor said Hoover was not seeking the annexation of Indian Springs, but if our citizens wanted to come into Hoover, Hoover would consider taking them in.

Jack Van Pelt, who lived at the crest of Indian Crest Drive, spoke of the need for incorporating Indian Springs and the desirability of a U. S. Post Office for the new town.

To determine the direction citizens were leaning, a showing of hands was called. Mary Bowman, secretary for the last year of the Civic Club's existence, took notes. Nobody wanted to annex into Birmingham; "a few" chose Pelham; "not too many" wanted to join Hoover. The vote was about "half and half" to "incorporate" or "stay how we are." It was difficult to determine the citizens' wishes because the crowd was so large.

Despite what the Hoover mayor said, both Hoover and Pelham were attempting to annex by the "long lasso" method, later repealed. The "long lasso" method worked this way: a city could follow the path of a highway or waterway and "lasso" in a section it wanted to annex.

Pelham also crossed I-65 and by legislative enactment acquired Oak Mountain State Park. The park, the largest in Alabama, had been enlarged to 10,000 acres in the 1970's by Governor George Wallace. Apparently during the 1920's it was a haven for whiskey stills and moonshining. To combat this problem, the Federal Department of Interior acquired 850 acres around Pea Vine

Falls. "Revenuers" could then be brought in. In 1950, the property was deeded to the State of Alabama. Pelham's acquisition of the park struck many as being unheard of and put Pelham right in our back door on the southern side. Besides, the acquisition had been accomplished in the dead of night without any previous publicity. It was introduced by Representative Mike Hill of Pelham.

As an individual, Jack Van Pelt had been organizing meetings of North Shelby residents to form a city confined to Shelby County. Mayor Skinner and his cohorts always showed up at the meetings, and no progress was made. The foundation of Indian Springs Village was to become the work of others.

The Push for Incorporation

Tricia Crapet says that the first meeting she attended concerning incorporation was in 1986 at Stewart Dudley's barn on Cahaba Valley Road. Dudley had had some type of confrontation with the Hoover police about his horses, after Hoover had annexed Indian Highlands (then known as Campbell Ridge) by the long lasso method, and the policeman apparently mistakenly thought he was within his rights being on the Dudley property, which included Indian Highlands. As a result, a case was filed challenging the legality of the long lasso method of annexation. That case was carried all the way to the Alabama Supreme Court by Dudley and Hub Harrington, a local attorney, who won. Lindsey Allison represented them in the case.

According to James Wyatt, a victory for local residents was bad news for the builder, who had already divided Indian Highlands into ¼ acre lots. The area came under Beat 12 zoning laws as E-1, which meant lots could be no less than one acre.

After Pelham annexed Oak Mountain State Park, a Mr. Buddy Argo proposed to build a strip mall on Route 14 just off Cahaba Valley Road. Hoover already had annexed Quail Run and Valley Station, whose residents were attracted by the Hoover school system. Hoover bought Heardmont Farms, and it was rumored a new Hoover high school would be built there. As early as 1984 Hoover had crossed the Cahaba River and annexed into the North Shelby Fire & Emergency Medical District (NSFD) from the north, meaning that residents annexed now would pay charges to both NSFD and Hoover. Because of traffic concerns, many residents attended a public meeting of the Shelby County Planning Commission to protest the proposed building of a YMCA on Cahaba Valley Road near the present town hall.

It was attorney Hub Harrington and his wife, Kathryn Sumrall Harrington, also a lawyer, who were the first to formulate a means for incorporating and running a town without local taxes. These two sharp legal minds did the research, legal work, and planning, laying the groundwork for what is now Indian Springs Village. Others

assisting were lawyers Russell and Lindsey Allison and Judge of Probate for Shelby County, Tommy Snowden, and Stewart Dudley. They wanted to present their plan to interested citizens.

Ronald and Sandy Luster agreed to host the meetings, which were not advertised—nobody wanted anyone from Hoover or Pelham to show up. The meetings were held on Sunday afternoons, always with refreshments, and Hub presented the idea of forming our own town without our citizens paying taxes—utility taxes and taxes from Charter Cable, the Birmingham Race Course, and offshore oil revenues, for example, would keep us going, provided the town was also based on volunteers doing the work. “Village” was added to “Indian Springs” because “Indian Springs” was desirable and “Village” conveys the idyllic, pastoral character of the town.

Indian Springs was divided into quarter sections with volunteers canvassing the quarters with petitions for residents to sign to have a referendum to vote on whether or not to incorporate. The names were verified with the 911 list.

These areas were canvassed: the area to the south to Oak Mountain State Park; portions of Indian Springs School (there were not enough voters to canvass in some quarter-quarter sections) on the west; up Caldwell Mill Road in front of North Shelby Fire Station No. 2; Caldwell Mill Circle and Lane; McGuire Road and its off-shoots, McGuire Lane and Old Mill Road and Court; to Valley View Lane and Road to Indian Crest Drive. To the north the canvass stopped at Old Post Road.

My husband, Edward T. Goodwyn, was assigned the Indian Crest area and the streets branching from it. He would come home in the afternoons and while still dressed in coat and tie, he would canvass his route. He had some amusing tales to tell when he got back home, like how he held the baby while the mistress of the house signed the petition. He and other petitioners would meet at the Lusters’ on Sunday afternoon and turn in the petitions. Tricia Crapet swears she wore out two sets of brakes delivering literature to every house in the area predicted to be the new town, plus literature for many other occasions. She summed it up: “We really worked hard.”

The day of voting, October 16, 1990, finally came, and everyone anxiously awaited the outcome from the voting site, North Shelby Fire Station No. 2 at the intersection of Caldwell Mill and Cahaba Valley roads. Afterwards, a victory celebration was held at Ron and Sandy Luster’s poolside pavilion. The population of the new town was more than one thousand residents.

Election of Officers

Next was the election of officials to run the new town of Indian Springs Village—a mayor and five council members. Many people were interested in running for office, but many unselfishly withdrew in favor of another as a

candidate for the good of the town. I withdrew my candidacy in favor of Dr. Peter Peacock, whose position was with the State medical department in Montgomery, and I felt he would be more influential in gaining help for our fledging town, if we needed it.

Hub Harrington and Bill Pittman were candidates for mayor.

Five who publicly supported incorporation more or less banded together to form a slate running for council: Ronald Luster, Patricia Crapet, Gary Dennis, Dr. Peter Peacock and Stewart Dudley. This left the other five candidates, who may or may not have supported incorporation, in another slate running for council, although this was not planned by either “slate.” The second “slate” was comprised of Margaret Bishop, Virginia (Ginny) Lusk, Kathy Monacelli, Mark Bond and Lloyd Wagner, Jr.

When campaigning began in earnest, Gary Dennis, one of those who supported incorporation, went to Atlanta and rented a huge balloon resembling a hot air balloon. On each side were the names of the pro-incorporation candidates running for mayor and council. The balloon was erected on Lusters’ Field facing Cahaba Valley Road. The first night somebody cut a hole in the balloon with a knife, thus deflating it. It was patched with duct tape and inflated once again. Then somebody stole the air compressor and balloon. Gary drove all the way back to Atlanta to rent another balloon. Then various ones took turns at night guarding the balloon.

Jim Wyatt was on guard one night from 8:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m., but fog rolled in, and he succumbed to the cold. Jim and Gary Dennis were prepared to stay another time but a cold front moved in, and they just had to go home. Gary said they reasoned those seeking to do harm to the balloon were just as cold as they were and had also gone home to bed. The balloon was untouched until voting time, when those whose names were on it, won. The election was held in January, 1991.

The new mayor, Hub Harrington, and council members were sworn in at the Indian Springs School Library by Shelby County Judge of Probate, Tommy Snowden. The mayor was in charge of community development, zoning, planning, and legal affairs in addition to overseeing the appointed town officials. Paul Stephens was appointed Town Clerk; James Wyatt Assistant Town Clerk, and Dr. Ruth Goodwyn was named Village Historian. Duties of council members were divided this way:

Ronald Luster—roads, maintenance and construction

Patricia Crapet—communications, community relations and newsletter

Gary Dennis—public services, management of statistical information

Dr. Peter Peacock—public health, environmental protection, parks, recreation and beautification.

Stewart Dudley—finance.

The Village Voice was established the following spring, the first issue being April 2, 1991. Tricia Crapet set up the delivery routes and secured couriers to hand-deliver the monthly newsletter, written by volunteers, and also contributed many articles for publication. The first editor was Laverne Ramsey with consulting editor, Ruth Goodwyn, who later became editor after Olivia Weingarten. The first issue contained ordinance after ordinance, many of them written by the mayor and patterned after those of Mountain Brook. The first issue published the avowed purpose of our town: "To protect our community from outside intrusion with a minimum amount of government." Further, "In all community endeavors, Indian Springs Village relies on the work by volunteers." Aluminum cans were collected for recycling by volunteers to pay for the publication of the newsletter, which has not missed a deadline.

The mayor spoke to the Heads of Addresses in our U. S. Postal District; the result is that our residents whose zip code is 35124, the same as Pelham's, are authorized to use Indian Springs Village, or, Indian Springs, as our mailing address and to use the new 911 street addresses. Councilman Gary Dennis got permission for us to use Indian Springs as our address, instead of Pelham, when applying for a driver's license. He refused to leave the license office until that permission was granted. Soon the first map came out with Indian Springs' name on it. The Wall Street Journal described Indian Springs in the July 7, 1992 issue as a "lush hillside enclave of mansions recently incorporated as Indian Springs Village."

Council members took their duties seriously: litterwalks were held and aluminum can recycling was organized—all by volunteers; an environmental survey was held. A "Pothole Crew" was formed, comprised of James Boyett, Paul Stephens, and James Wyatt, who really did fill potholes and perform many other services, especially during the 17 inch blizzard of 1993 and the Palm Sunday tornado of 1994. Fourth of July and Founders' Day celebrations were held in our first year and later the annual Easter Egg Hunt was organized

Our first Fourth of July celebration was complete with a parade of antique cars and motorcycles through the village, joined by horseback riders and colorful "patriotic pets" as the parade turned into the Indian Springs School campus. A patriotic program opened the meeting, followed by lunch, barbeque and all the trimmings, provided by the "Pothole Crew," who had arisen early to start the fire. Desserts were provided by villagers. Lunch was followed by watermelon rolls, apple-bobbing, and other games for children and a "dunk the mayor" opportunity.

Again, Indian Springs School offered the use of its facilities. We had Fourth of July and Founders' Day and council meetings there until the town bought the McClellan property on Cahaba Valley Road. Our open house for the new town hall was December 17, 1995, and our first council meeting was held there in January.

At an early town council meeting, we adopted our town logo, selected from submissions by citizens. The winner was Julie Wyatt Schenk, a local artist and author of children's books. Her design in blue, green, and brown with a white background features three deer, very commonly seen here. In December, Julie and Russell Schenk were the first couple in the new town to marry.

When speculating "What if..." had we not incorporated, my favorite story is the following: an "upscale" trailer court would be located at what is now the Michael Stephens' Resting-S Ranch on Cahaba Valley Road, where beautiful national-championship Arabian horses are bred and trained.

(My thanks to those who critiqued this article and verified facts: Hub and Kathryn Sumrall Harrington, Patricia Crapet, James Wyatt, and Gary Dennis. RG)

In Memoriam

Michael "MIKE" H. Ferguson, age 55, of Indian Springs, AL died on Wednesday, August 29, 2007. Mike was born in Montgomery, AL and graduated high school from Jefferson Davis High School in Montgomery in 1970. He also graduated from The Community College of the Air Force, working on his degree while serving in the United States Air Force from 1972 to 1980. Mike was a passionate ham radio operator, whose call sign was KE4UMD. After an honorable discharge from the Air Force, Mike started working in the Birmingham area at several different companies working on sound systems, video and MATV/CATV systems, computer systems, phone systems, security systems, and even worked for The City of Birmingham in the Radio Shop working on public safety and public service radio equipment. Mike was preceded in death by his father, Bertie Dean Ferguson, and his mother, Dorothy Howell Ferguson. Survivors include his wife, B.J. Scharath Ferguson; his sister, Kathryn (Jeffrey) Stabler; his two nieces, Ann Elizabeth and Mary V.; and nephew, William (Montgomery); his stepmother, Frances Ferguson (Montgomery); his best "blood brother", Baird (Tami) Pickett (Montevallo); his beloved Golden Retriever, Rusty; and a host of "ham" radio friends too numerous to mention. Funeral Services were held at 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, September 1, 2007 at Southern Heritage. Pallbearers were Baird Pickett, Maeghen Pickett, Larry Mann, Don Stonicher, Don Minyard, Lindell Hancock and Jeffrey Stabler. Honorary pallbearers were Paul Brugh and Jack Landon Pickett. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to Humane Society of Shelby County, 381 McDow Road, Columbiana, AL 35051, Alabama Wildlife Center, Oak Mountain State Park, 100 Terrace Drive, Pelham, AL 35124 or a favorite charity of choice. *(Reprinted from The Birmingham News.)*

Cahaba Valley Garden Club

by Mrs. Carl W. Stapleton, Sr.

On Wednesday, September 12, 2007, the remaining active members of the Cahaba Valley Garden Club met for a luncheon and final meeting at the home of Mrs. Jennie Pittman in Indian Springs Village.

The club had its beginning back in 1952 in a log cabin which stood on the side of Highway 119, adjacent to Indian Springs School. The school itself had opened earlier that year. The log cabin was well over 100 years old, and sat on property that belonged to Mr. Earl Morgan, who had moved into the valley in 1941. At first, he and his wife, Florence, had lived in the cabin, but when their new home was completed they moved to a hilltop which overlooked the valley. The log cabin was then offered temporarily to the school to house new professors and their wives, who were coming to teach at the school.

Mrs. Amy Mason was living in the cabin and invited several of the professor's wives, as well as a few friends, to a gathering for the purpose of forming a garden club in the community. At that time, a name was chosen for this new club – it became the Cahaba Valley Garden Club. From that simple beginning over coffee there developed a group of some 50 to 100 members who have met in each other's homes, to learn and to share every phase of gardening and horticulture that was available to them.

When Mrs. Mason later moved on with her husband she published at least two beautiful books on flowers and gardening, which today are found in libraries all over the country.

Over the years, members have come and gone but the group of friends still managed to meet once a month in homes, or gathered at local nurseries and garden in the area to further their knowledge of everything pertaining to gardening and nature. During that time, the membership branched out from not only the Indian Springs area, but finally encompassed members from Alabaster, Pelham, Leeds, Harpersville, Calera and even Talledega. Oftentimes there was a waiting list to join, since the membership was kept at 25 to 30 members.

During these 55 years, the club has had some wonderfully talented and artistic members who have participated in the many worthy projects which were chosen by the group. Each year, a modest amount was collected from club members for dues, and there was also an annual plant auction and white elephant sale held during the May meeting, to support the selected projects.

Some of the projects have included the beautification of the grounds of the Shelby Memorial Hospital in Alabaster, local nursing homes and schools in the vicinity as well as the Indian Springs Village Town Hall, which had been the residence of an early settler's family. At Christmas, a tree was decorated in the lobby of Shelby Memorial Hospital,

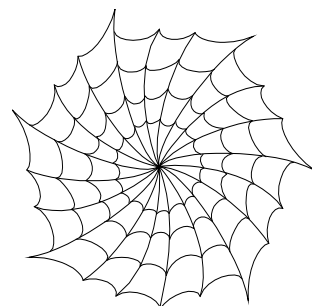
which brought a moment of joy to the many people who passed through on their way to visit loved ones who were sick or injured. Other projects have included supplying food and clothing for needy families in Shelby County, giving of funds for the care of foster children, as well as providing shoes and school supplies for children in need, donations to local food pantries, aid to homeless women and their children and funds to help with the Special Equestrians program to help handicapped children.

In 2004, a permanent historical plaque was purchased and installed on the grounds of the Indian Springs Village Town Hall, commemorating the Ashville to Montevallo segment of the stagecoach route which had, at one time, run through the valley in the early 1800's. It began in Washington, Tennessee and ran through several counties in Alabama, all the way to Selma, Alabama. Until recent years, there could be seen remains of at least two of the bridges over which the state route traveled through the valley. In the fall of 2005, the club held a dedication ceremony of the plaque in loving memory of a member, Mrs. Frances Dudley, who had recently passed away. Her family joined the club members that day to honor her memory. The plaque was placed on the grounds to allow interested people to pull off the busy road safely to read about the route. Today it is only one of several hundred similar plaques that can be seen along the old route that runs through Leeds, Alabama and northward on Highway 411.

As we met for the last time, the decision was made to donate the funds that remained in the treasury to the North Shelby Library in honor and memory of all of those who so generously gave their time, energy and talents to make this small section of the country a better place in which to live and raise our families. Many lasting friendships have been made, and much has been accomplished, by this group of women, always for the good of the community and the people whose lives they have touched.

It was with some regret, but joy, that we could meet one last time to remember all of the funny and happy moments that we have shared as club members over the last 55 years.

The little log cabin where it all began was donated by the descendants of the Morgan family, and can be seen today where it resides, in the peaceful surroundings of Joe Tucker Park in Helena, Alabama.



Finally....At Last!!!!

by Bart Trammell, Administrative Assistant

After several years of persistence, and some very competent and dedicated assistance from AT&T employee April Benford, I can now report to you that an easy and simply method has been established so you can make a change in your telephone listing if it is something other than Indian Springs. You will not be required to dial several options, wait patiently for several minutes while listening to the beautiful music and then ultimately speaking with a customer representative to no avail.

I suggested to the AT&T representative that I would serve as contact person for Indian Springs Village. If your listed address is Pelham or Helena and your ZIP Code is 35124, all you need to do to change your listing to Indian Springs is to fill out the following form and place the entire page in an envelope and mail to Bart Trammell, 2635 Cahaba Valley Road, Indian Springs, AL 35124-3409 OR call me at 988-0094 and I will come to your home and get your authorization.

The deadline for any changes will be December 1st for inclusion in the Spring 2008 AT&T White Pages.



I wish to change my telephone listing to Indian Springs and I hereby authorize an Indian Springs Village representative to initiate this change.

Print Name as Listed: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Signature: _____

Return this form to Bart Trammell, 2635 Cahaba Valley Road, Indian Springs, Alabama 35124-3409 or call Bart at 988-0094.



10 Minute Apple Sauce Recipe

courtesy Alton Brown, www.foodnetwork.com

- 3 Golden Delicious apples, peeled, cored, and quartered
- 3 Fuji apples, peeled, cored, and quartered
- 1 cup unfiltered apple juice
- 2 tablespoons cognac or brandy
- 2 tablespoons butter
- 3 tablespoons honey
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon

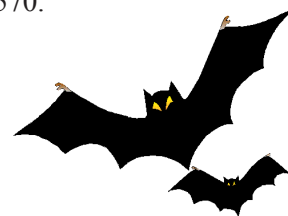
In a sealable microwave-safe container, combine apples with all other ingredients. Close lid, leaving one corner of lid open to allow steam to escape. Microwave on high for 10 minutes.

Using a hand blender or potato masher, blend to desired consistency. Serve hot immediately or chill for later use.

Burn Ban in Effect

by Steve Zerkis, Mayor

Just a reminder that the State mandatory burn ban runs through October 31, 2007. This ban applies to everyone. For further information, please contact the Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM) at 942-6168, or the North Shelby Fire Department at 991-6439 or 991-6570.



Alabama Wildlife Center Asks for Volunteers

by Anne Miller, Director

Alabama's native wildlife needs your help! Volunteers are urgently needed at the Alabama Wildlife Center to provide care for this year's wildlife orphans. Call 663-7930 or log on to www.awrc.org for more information about the next training session on October 20th at the Alabama Wildlife Center located in Oak Mountain State Park.

OCTOBER 2007

SENIOR CLUB LUNCHEON DATES HEARDMONT PARK SENIOR CENTER
 December 11 (205) 991-5742

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
1 9:30-10:30 Tai Chi 10:30-11:30 Historical Journey w/Daniel 10-2 pm Games and Fellowship 11:30 Lunch 12:30-4:00 Canasta	2 10-11 Exercise Class 10-2 pm Games and Fellowship 11:30 Lunch 1-2 pm Line Dancing	3 9:30-12 noon Bridge Club 11:30 Lunch 12:30-4 Games and Fellowship	4 10:30-11:30 Exercise Class 10-2 pm Games & Fellowship 11:30 Lunch 1-2 pm Line Dancing	5 10-2 Games and Fellowship 9-10 Intermediate Line Dancing w/Chris 10-11 Beginner Line Dancing w/Chris 11:30 Lunch
8 9:30-10:30 Tai Chi 10:30-11:30 Historical Journey w/Daniel 10-2 pm Games and Fellowship 11:30 Lunch 12:30-4:00 Canasta	9 10-11 Exercise Class 10-2 pm Games and Fellowship 11:30 Lunch 1-2 pm Line Dancing	10 9:30-12 noon Bridge Club 11:30 Lunch 12:30-4 Games and Fellowship	11 10:30-11:30 Exercise Class 11:00 Style Show by Coldwater Creek 10-2 pm Games & Fellowship 11:30 Lunch 1-2 pm Line Dancing	12 10-2 Games and Fellowship 9-10 Intermediate Line Dancing w/Chris 10-11 Beginner Line Dancing w/Chris 11:30 Lunch 7-9:30pm Dance & Social with Jerry Seals
15 9:30-10:30 Tai Chi 10:30-11:30 Historical Journey w/Daniel 10-2 pm Games and Fellowship 11:30 Lunch 12:30-4:00 Canasta	16 10-11 Exercise Class 10-2 pm Games and Fellowship 11:30 Lunch 1-2 pm Line Dancing	17 9:30-12 noon Bridge Club 11:30 Lunch 12:30-4 Games & Fellowship	18 10:30-11:30 Exercise Class 10-2 pm Games & Fellowship 11:30 Lunch 1-2 pm Line Dancing	19 10-2 Games and Fellowship 9-10 Intermediate Line Dancing w/Chris 10-11 Beginner Line Dancing w/Chris 11:30 Lunch
22 9:30-10:30 Tai Chi 10:30-11:30 Historical Journey w/Daniel 10-2 pm Games and Fellowship 11:30 Lunch 12:30-4:00 Canasta	23 10-11 Exercise Class 10-2 pm Games and Fellowship 11:30 Lunch 1-2 pm Line Dancing	24 9:30-12 noon Bridge Club 11:30 Lunch 12:30-4 Games & Fellowship	25 The Coach in Alabaster 10-11 Exercise Class 10-2 pm Games and Fellowship 11:30 Lunch 1-2 pm Line Dancing	26 10-2 Games and Fellowship 9-10 Intermediate Line Dancing w/Chris 10-11 Beginner Line Dancing w/Chris 11:30 Lunch 7-9:30pm Dance & Social with Ray Newman
29 9:30-10:30 Tai Chi 10:30-11:30 Historical Journey w/Daniel 10-2 pm Games and Fellowship 11:30 Lunch 12:30-4:00 Canasta	30 Day Trip to Lonesome Dove* 10-11 Exercise Class 10-2 pm Games and Fellowship 11:30 Lunch 1-2 pm Line Dancing	31 9:30-12 noon Bridge Club 11:30 Lunch 12:30-4 Games & Fellowship	*This trip will have a picnic style boxed lunch.	

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